

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 02252 091600Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3236
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: EEC, FO, SW, SP, PO, NO, UR, PL, GE, US, EFIS, PLOS
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTER S COUNCIL, MARCH 8, 1977: FISHERY
DISCUSSIONS

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 2167; (B) EC BRUSSELS 1939; (C) EC
BRUSSELS 1319

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSIN ER GUNDELACH INFORMED THE EC
FOREIGN MINISTERS MARCH 8 THAT THE EC COMMISSION WILL NOT,
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 02252 091600Z

FOR THE TIME BEING, REQUEST EXTENSION OF QUOTAS AND LI-
CENSES FOR EAST EUROPEAN AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRY FISHING IN
EC WATERS, DUE TO EXPIRE MARCH 31. HOWEVER, GUNDELACH
SAID HE MIGHT REQUEST SUCH AN EXTENSION LATER ON DURING
NEGOLIATIONS WITH THE USSR, POLAND, AND EAST GERMANY.
ALSO DURING THE COUNCIL DEBATE, THE UK DEMANDED THAT THE
COMMISSION MAKE NEW EFFORTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH

ICELAND; AND IRELAND CALED FOR MORE URGENT STUDY OF AN INTERNAL FISHING REGIME. END SUMMARY.

2. EXTERNAL REGIME

THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MARCH 8 COUNCIL DEBATE ON FISHERY QUESTIONS OPENED WITH A REPORT FROM GUNDELACH ON THE STATUS OF THIRD-COUNTRY FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS:

(A) FAEROE ISLANDS: GUNDELACH REPORTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND OBTAINED COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT.

(B) SWEDEN: GUNDELACH REPORTED THAT AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED:

(C) SPAIN AND PORTUGAL: GUNDELACH BROUGHT THE MINISTERS UP TO DATE ON NEGOTIATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS.

(D) NORWAY: GUNDELACH ANNOUNCED THAT THE "SECOND ROUND" OF TALKS WILL BEGIN IN APRIL.

(E) USSR, POLAND, AND EAST GERMANY: GUNDELACH TOLD THE MINISTERS IT WAS NOT, AT PRESENT, POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHEN TALKS WOULD BE CONCLUDED. HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE TEMPORARY EC ARRANGEMENTS ON QUOTAS AND LICENSES EXPIRE MARCH 31, HE DOES NOT WISH TO EASE PRESSURE ON THE EAST EUROPEANS BY REQUESTING EXTENSION OF THOSE MEASURES AT THIS MOMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO PUT THE COUNCIL ON NOTICE, HOWEVER, THE HE MIGHT LATER HAVE TO REQUEST THAT QUOTAS AND LICENSES FOR THESE THREE STATES AS WELL AS OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES (SPAIN AND PORTUGAL) BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO UK AND IRISH PERMDEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 02252 091600Z

SOURCES, THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THIS COULD BE DEALT WITH IN COREPER BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE.

3. ACCORDING TO A UK SPOKESMAN, MINISTER OF STATE FRANK JUDD TOLD GUNDELACH THAT HMG WAS "DISAPPOINTED" AT HIS FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO ICELAND IN HIS REPORT. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH FISHING INDUSTRY HAD SUFFERED MORE THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER MEMBER STATE FROM BEING EXCLUDED FROM ICELANDIC WATERS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GUNDELACH WOULD NOT GIVE UP HIS EFFORTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED IMMEDIATE CONTACTS WITH THE GOI TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. GUNDELACH REPLIED THAT REPEATED APPEALS HAD FAILED TO GET A "CLEAR YES OR A CLEAR NO" ON REOPENING TALKS AND PROMISED TO DISCUSS THE NEXT MOVES ON ICELAND WITH COREPER BEFORE THE APRIL 5 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL.

4. IN LATER DISCUSSION WITH REPORTERS, JUDD SAID THAT HMG FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE LACK OF PROGRESS SO FAR

TOWARDS SECURING RIHTS FOR UK TRAWLERS IN ICELAND IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. HE ADDED THAT THE UK "ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY" WAS RELATED TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMISSION ACTION ON THIS FRONT. HE DESCRIBED THE ICELANDIC NEGOTIATIONS AS A "BASIC POLITICAL PRIORITY FOR US IN BRITAIN", ADDING THAT "WE WANT FORCEFUL COMMISSION ACTION" AND THAT " WE ARE NOT YET SURE, QUITE FRANKLY, THAT HAS YET HAPPENED."

5. INTERNAL REGIME - GUNDELACH REPORTED ON THE ARRANGEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND IRELAND ON POSTPONEMENT OF THE UNILATERAL IRISH CONSERVATION MEASURES (REFTEL B). HE SAID THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS GROUP ON FISHERIES WOULD BE MEETING IN BRUSSELS MARCH 9 UNDER THE AEGIS OF COREPER TO DISCUSS THE COMMISSION'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL, IN THE HOPE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 EC BRU 02252 091600Z

IT COULD BE REFERRED TO THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS FOR APPROVAL MARCH 14-15.

6. ACCORDING TO A UK PERMDEL SOURCE, IRISH FISHERIES MINISTER PADDY DONEGAN TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT, ALTHOUGH THE GOI HAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO RELAY UNILATERAL MEASURES, NO PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM INTERNAL REGIME WAS VISIBLE TO THE IRISH PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE IRISH FISHING INDUSTRY. AN IRISH PERMDEL SOURCE TOLD US LATER THAT DONEGAN SAID THE GOI COULD AGREE TO EXTENSION OF EAST EUROPEAN QUOTAS AND LICENSES ONLY IF WORK BEGAN SOON ON A DEFINITIVE INTERNAL REGIME AS AGREED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON FEBRUARY 8 (REFTEL C).HINTON

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